

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 26, 39 and 40, and cancel claim 38, as follows:

1.-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A lentiviral vector system comprising a lentiviral packaging system and a lentiviral transfer vector comprising a heterologous gene operably linked to a regulatory element,

wherein the lentiviral packaging system comprises a structural lentiviral vector system comprising a first lentiviral vector that encodes a structural gene selected from a gag gene, a pol gene or both gag and pol genes; and a regulatory lentiviral vector comprising a rev gene, wherein the regulatory lentiviral vector is provided on a separate construct from the structural lentiviral vector system,

wherein the lentiviral transfer vector comprises a 5' LTR and a 3' LTR, ~~each of which contains a U3 region,~~

wherein the regulatory element is a heterologous regulatory element operable in a mammalian cell,

wherein a part or all of a regulatory element of the U3 region of the 5' LTR is replaced by the heterologous regulatory element, ~~and~~

wherein a part or all of the U3 region of the 3' LTR is replaced by a heterologous inducible regulatory element that is activated only in the presence of an activator expressed in trans, and

wherein the lentiviral vector system lacks a functional tat gene.

27. (Previously Presented) The lentiviral vector system of claim 26, wherein the heterologous inducible regulatory element comprises a tet operator.

28. (Previously Presented) The lentiviral vector system of claim 27, wherein the heterologous inducible regulatory element comprises seven copies of a tet operator (tet^o7).

29. (Previously Presented) The lentiviral vector system of claim 28, wherein the tet^o7 is linked to a part of the 3' U3 region that comprises a TATA box sequence.

30. (Previously Presented) A method of producing a recombinant lentivirus comprising:
- (a) transfecting a packaging host cell with the lentiviral vector system of claim 26;
- and
- (b) recovering the recombinant lentivirus produced by the transfected packaging host cell.

31.-32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented) The lentiviral vector system of claim 26, wherein the regulatory lentiviral vector further comprises a heterologous regulatory element operably linked to the rev gene.

34. (Previously Presented) The lentiviral vector system of claim 33, wherein the heterologous regulatory element operably linked to the rev gene comprises a RSV U3 or a herpes simplex virus thymidine kinase (HSVtk) promoter.

35. (Previously Presented) The lentiviral vector system of claim 26, wherein the structural lentiviral vector system further comprises a regulatory response element (RRE) downstream of the structural gene.

36. (Previously Presented) The lentiviral vector system of claim 26, wherein the structural lentiviral vector system further comprises a heterologous regulatory element operably linked to the structural gene.

37. (Previously Presented) The lentiviral vector system of claim 36, wherein the heterologous regulatory element operably linked to the structural gene comprises a CMV promoter.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Currently Amended) The lentiviral vector system of claim 26 38, wherein the tat gene is deleted.

40. (Currently Amended) The lentiviral vector system of claim 26 ~~38~~, wherein the tat gene is mutated.
41. (Previously Presented) The lentiviral vector system of claim 26, which lacks a functional HIV env gene.
42. (Previously Presented) The lentiviral vector system of claim 26, further comprising a viral env gene that is derived from a different virus than the structural genes.
43. (Previously Presented) The lentiviral vector system of claim 42, wherein the env gene is provided on a vector other than the first lentiviral vector.
44. (Previously Presented) The lentiviral vector system of claim 26, which lacks functional vif, vpr, vpu and nef genes.
45. (Previously Presented) The lentiviral vector system of claim 26, wherein the lentivirus is human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).
46. (Previously Presented) The lentiviral vector system of claim 45, wherein the HIV is HIV-1.